

A photograph of Pope Benedict XVI, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a white cassock and a white zucchetto. He is smiling and waving his right hand, which has a ring on the ring finger. He is standing behind a balcony railing with a red velvet cloth. A microphone is visible in front of him. The background shows a building with vertical architectural elements.

Today in History

February 11, 2013

▲ **Pope Benedict XVI declared his intention to retire, citing old age and increasing infirmity. The first pontiff to retire since 1415, he took the title Pope Emeritus**

1873: King Amadeo of Spain abdicated, leading to the proclamation of the first Spanish republic

1993: General Motors posted a \$23.5 billion loss for 1992, then the largest in U.S. corporate history

2009: The communication satellites Iridium 33 and Kosmos 2251 were destroyed when they collided in space

2015: Francesco Schettino, captain of the shipwrecked Costa Concordia, was sentenced to 16 years in prison